

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 10/027,226

Confirmation No.: 9039

Filed: 20 December 2001

For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR REMOVAL OF ORGANIC MOLECULES FROM BIOLOGICAL MIXTURES USING A HYDROPHILIC SOLID SUPPORT IN A HYDROPHOBIC MATRIX

Remarks

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Notice of Allowability, mailed 25 September 2007, in which claims 1, 3-28, 30-55, 62-67, and 77-81 are deemed allowable.

In the Statement on Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner characterizes U.S. Patent No. 6,451,260 (Dusterhoft) as teaching a polymer in which “hydrophobic and hydrophilic particles are contained in the same polymer.” (Notice of Allowance, page 3). Applicants continue to disagree with this characterization of the teaching of Dusterhoft for at least the reasons of record set forth in detail in the remarks on pages 16-20 of the Amendment and Response submitted 11 March 2005. Briefly, Applicants claims recite a solid-phase extraction material that includes *solid hydrophilic particles* and a hydrophobic matrix. Dusterhoft teaches a “synthetic resin . . . which comprises both hydrophilic and hydrophobic segments” (column 11, lines 22-24). Applicants respectfully submit that one of skill in the art would not consider a hydrophilic segment of a polymer to be a solid hydrophilic particle. Applicants further submit that one of skill in the art would not refer to a portion of a molecule (e.g., a segment of a polymer), in isolation, as a solid or as a solid particle.

Applicants submit that the interpretation of Dusterhoft does not effect the patentability of the allowed claims because, as noted in the Statement on Reasons for Allowance, “Dusterhoft did not teach a solid phase extraction material comprised of solid hydrophobic particles in a hydrophobic matrix **wherein the solid hydrophilic particles comprise molecules different than the hydrophobic matrix.**” (Notice of Allowance, page 3, emphasis in original).

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Summary

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

December 17, 2007
Date

By: Nancy M. Lambert
Nancy M. Lambert, Reg. No.: 44,856
Telephone No.: 651-733-2180